

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 AID-05 PC-01 IO-13 HA-05
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8341

INFO Z/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY 3996

AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY BRAZILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 0540

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PERP, PE, EC

SUBJECT: PERU-ECUADOR BORDER INCIDENTS

REF: (A) LIMA 0514, AND (B) LIMA 0537 (NOTAL)

1. UNDER SECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS WEILAND CALLED ME IN THIS AFTERNOON AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF ONE OF THE RIO PROTOCOL GUARANTORS (CHILEAN AMBASSADOR BULNES IMMEDIATELY PRECED ME) TO EXPRESS GOP PRE-OCCUPATION OVER THE INCIDENTS ALONG THE ECUADOREAN BORDER. WIELAND SAID THE GOP WAS CONCERNED "BOUT WHAT HAD HAPPENED" AND WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN IN THE FUTURE". HE SAID THE MINISTRY WAS SEIMPLY BRING THIS CONCERN TO THE ATTENTION OF THE USG AND WAS NOT ASKING FOR ANY ACTION ON OUR PART.

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2. I ASKED WIELAND WHAT HE HAD IN MIND BY THE REFERNECE TO FUTURE PROBLEMS, NOTING THAT POVEDA'S CALL TO MORALES BERMUDEZ SEEMED TO ME TO INDICATE THAT THAT MATTER WAS ON THE WAY TO FRIENDLY RESOLUTION. WIELAND SAID THE GOP HAD TAKEN PARTICULAR NOTE OF THE FACT THAT ONE OF THE INCIDENTS OCCURRED IN THE AREA OF THE UNDERMARCKATED BORDER, AND ANOTHER QUITE NEAR IT. HE SAID THE IMPRESSION HAD

ARISEN HERE THAT THE ECUADOREANS MIGHT BE "PROBING". THE CALL FROM POVEDA, IN THE GOP VIEW, WAS HELPFUL AS FAR AS IT WENT, BUT THERE IS A SUSPICION THAT POVEDA DOES NOT CONTROL THE ARMED FORCES. WIELAND WENT ON TO QUESTION THE AUTHORITY AND STRENGTH OF THE GOE, AS DE LA PUENTE HAS DONE WITH ME IN THE PAST.

3. I OBSERVED THAT WHATEVER SUSPICIONS THERE MIGHT BE, THIS DID SEEM TO ME A PROBLEM SUSCEPTIBLE OF RESOLUTION THROUGH DIRECT CONVERSATIONS. WIELAND RESPONDED WITH THE USLA ASSERTION OF PERU'S "PACIFISTIC POLICY" AND TOLD ME IN CONFIDENCE THAT THE GOP WAS EXPLORING THE IDEA OF A MEETING BETWEEN THE ARMY CHIEFS OF STAFF OF THE TWO COUNTRIES. I SAID THAT SEEMED A GOOD IDEA TO ME. SURELY FUTURE INCIDENTS COULD BE PREVENTED BY AN UNDERSTANDING AT THE MILITARY LEVEL.

4. IR REMINED WIELAND THAT MY GOVERNMENT FOR SOMETIME

NOW HAS BEEN URGING A SOLUTION TO THE BORDER PROBLEM AS BENEFICIAL TO BOTH COUNTRIES AND TO THE HEMISPHERE AS A WHOLE. THESE INCIDENTS SEEMED TO UNDERSCORE THE IMPORTANCE OF CONCLUDING AN OVERALL AGREEMENT. WIELAND CONCEDED THAT A BROAD SOLUTION WOULD BE THE ANSWER, BUT ARGUED, AS HIS MINISTER HAS, THAT THE PERUVIANS WOULD BE GOING BLINDLY INTO SUCH A NEGOTIATION GIVEN THE IMPERMANENT CONFIDENTIAL

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NATURE OF THIS GOE AND THE VOLATILE STATE OF ECUADOREAN POLITICS. HE FEARED THAT IF THE PERUVIANS WERE TO OFFER A SATISFACTORY "PACKAGE OF CONCESSIONS" THE NEXT ECUADOREAN CONGRES WOULD REPEAT HISTORY BY REJECTING IT AND DEMANDING MORE. I SAID WE NONETHELESS HOP THE CONVERSATIONS WILL CONTINUE AND MAKE PROGRESS. JUST AS WE HOPE THAT THIS CURRENT DISPUTE WILL BE RESOLVED AMICABLY AND QUICKLY. WIELAND EXPRESSED HIS AGREEMENT WITH THAT OBSERVATION.

5. COMMENT: PRESUMABLY CALLING IN THE GUARANTOR POWERS SIMPLY TO EXPRESS CONCERN WAS DIRECTED AT PUTTING THE BEST FACE POSSIBLE ON WHAT SEEMS HERE TO BE AN OVERLY VIGOROUS PERUVIAN REACTION TO INCIDENTS OF THE KIND THAT HAVE OCCURRED SPORADICALLY OVER THE YEARS. WE THINK THE BASIC PROBLEM IS WITHIN THE PERUVIAN MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT AND THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WOULD HAVE MUCH PREFERRED TO HANDLE THE MATTER THROUGH QUIET DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS. I WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ANY FEEDBACK THAT MIGHT BECOME AVAILABLE FROM GOP REPRESENTATION TO THE OTHER GUARANTORS.

SHLAUDEMAM

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